

## **Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission September 1, 2020**

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 1, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jeremy Farr, Chair  
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair  
William "Bill" Blair  
Phillip Kraft  
Michelle Loposky  
Alfred Trevino  
Cameron Johnson  
Courtney Smythe  
David Lucier  
Timothy Rogers  
Chantele Carr

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director  
Terrisa Mays, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests Present:**

Aaron Peterson, City of Tempe  
Robin Arredondo-Savage, Councilmember  
Steven Methvin, Deputy City Manager

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance**

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances**

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of August 11, 2020 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to APPROVE August 11, 2020 minutes by Commission Member Bill Blair

**SECOND:** Motion seconded by Commission Member Cameron Johnson

**AYES:** Chair Jeremy Farr, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, Alfred Trevino, Cameron Johnson, Courtney Smythe, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Timothy Rogers

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Chair's Remarks**

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their attendance and efforts. Chair encouraged Commission to review public webpage to reacquaint with goals. Introduces new Commission Member Chantele Catt, Coordinator of Military and Veterans Advisement at Rio Salado College.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – History and Mission of the Veteran's Commission – Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage**

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage thanks Chair and staff support for leadership and commitment to focus of the Commission. Shares appreciation to Commission for the difference made in community. Proceeds to share history of Veterans Commission. In 2014 a veteran's task force was assembled with various stakeholders with the task of identifying gaps in veterans' services. Initial issues tackled were housing, this ultimately resulted in the establishment of Valor on 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commission was created to ensure the sustainability of task force and continue to identify issues and gaps in services in order to make recommendations to city council. Councilmember Arredondo-Savage acknowledges current for alignment with values of the taskforce, namely identifies newsletter or regular scheduled content as an opportunity to make connections and grow Listserv for veterans and their families. Councilmember also acknowledges Tempe's status as a Veteran Support City and encourages the Commission to ensure that Tempe continues to meet criteria and engage with Veterans Employee Breakfast. Evaluation recommended to ensure effectiveness of commission: survey underway is initial step. Courtney Smythe to provide application and list of designated supportive veterans cities. Commission member makes suggestion for signage at city limits to inform public of Tempe status as a designated Veteran Support City. Councilmember Arredondo-Savage has discretionary funds for stickers to post in businesses that are veterans' supportive businesses.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Review Questions Submitted for Tempe Forum – Aaron Peterson, City of Tempe**

Questions submitted by Commission show patterns consistent with education, employment, and resources. Aaron presents document that delineates questions into the following categories: employment, financial, education, social services, disability compensation and benefits. Commission is informed they are not limited to five categories. No questions were submitted for social services. Commission currently satisfied with current categories, can be modified before survey is made public. Commission reviews and edits questions and categories with Aaron. Document to be shared with Commission for further review. Aaron to attend next Commission meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – 2020 Boards and Commissions Annual Report – Goals and Accomplishments**

No updates from Commission. Commission is not currently at the point where submissions are necessary. Annual report to be discussed further at next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Change East Valley Veterans Educations to Rio Salado College**

**MOTION:** Motion to Change the Veterans Commission seating established for East Valley Veterans Commission to Maricopa Community College District or Designee by Commission Member Bill Blair

**SECOND:** Motion seconded by Commission Member Michelle Loposky

**AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, Alfred Trevino, Cameron Johnson, Courtney Smythe, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Timothy Rogers**

**Agenda Item 10 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements**

Commission member Bill Blair is on the Board of Directors for Habit for Humanity Central Arizona whose CEO is potential guest speaker and looking to engage with veterans related issues. Commission asks for referrals for various programs that are underutilized.

**Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items – September 1, 2020**

- Review of Survey Questions with Aaron Peterson
- 2020 Boards and Commissions Annual Report – Goals and Accomplishments

**Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.**

Next meeting will be on October 6, 2020

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays  
Reviewed by Octavia Harris

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Jeremy Farr, Chair  
Tempe Veterans Commission